

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8-10 and 12-16 have been amended and claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 12-31 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 1-7 and 17-31 have been allowed and that claims 11-16 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Applicant further notes that what is understood to be the allowable subject matter of former claim 11 has been incorporated into independent claim 8. Therefore, it is asserted that claim 8 is allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ha (U.S. 6,291,809). However, claim 8 has been amended as noted above. Therefore, applicant asserts that claim 8, as well as claims 9 and 10, are allowable as discussed above.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 9, 10, and 12-16

Applicant notes that claims 9, 10, and 12-16 have been amended to clarify the language of the claims and to be consistent with the amendments of claim 8. As such, they are not intended to limit the scope of the claims and should not be interpreted to do so.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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